Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for verifying a boot source in a computer system having a processor, the method comprising:

storing a trusted boot source in a first register from a peripheral connector, the trusted boot source having identification information, the first register comprising a write-once register;

determining identification information of an actual boot source used by the processor each time the computer system boots including examining a location of a predetermined number of instructions initially executed during boot up;

storing an identity of the actual boot source in a second register; and

comparing the identification information of the actual boot source against the identification information of the trusted boot source to prevent an unscrupulous boot source from being loaded through the peripheral connector.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the first register comprises a FLASH memory device the trusted boot source comprises a FLASH boot source.

3-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A system for verifying a boot source in a computer system having a processor coupled with a boot source, the system comprising:

a first register, comprising a write-once register, the first register for storing ~~an identity of~~ a trusted boot

source from a peripheral connector, the trusted boot source having identification information;

a bridge, coupled in communication with the first register, the bridge to determine identification

information of an actual boot source used by the processor each time the computer system boots

including examining a location of a predetermined number of instructions initially executed

during boot up; and

a second register, coupled in communication with the bridge, the second register to store identification

information ~~an identify~~ of the actual boot source[[;]] ~~and for allowing the boot source to be~~

~~specified once as a known boot source,~~

wherein the bridge compares identification information of the actual boot source against identification

information of the trusted boot source.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the bridge couples the

processor with the actual boot source and wherein the first register and the second register are

located within the bridge.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the bridge is a south

bridge.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the trusted boot source

is written only once to the second register during manufacture of the computer system.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6 wherein <u>the first register comprises a FLASH memory device</u> ~~the trusted boot source comprises a FLASH boot source~~.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the identity of the is written to the first register each time the computer system boots.

12. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the processor is capable of checking the boot source stored in the first register to ensure that the boot source is the known boot source.

13-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein storing the trusted boot source comprises storing the trusted boot source in the first register during manufacture of the computer system.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising: responsive to the actual boot source not matching the trusted boot source, shutting down the computer system.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein responsive actual boot source not matching the trusted boot source, shutting down the computer system.

18. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the peripheral connector comprises a peripheral connector interface (PCI) connector.

19. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the actual boot source is coupled to the peripheral connector.

20. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein the peripheral connector comprises a peripheral connector interface (PCI) connector.

21. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein the actual boot source is coupled to the peripheral connector.